

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application and stand rejected. Claims 1-16 have been cancelled. New claims 17-25 has been added. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

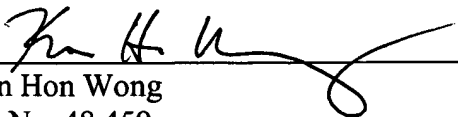
Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Knauff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,754) (hereinafter "Knauff"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinguishable over Knauff.

Accordingly, independent claims 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, and 25 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over Knauff. Dependent claims 18, 19 and 21 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons at least the reasons given for the independent claims. Withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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